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Remarks/Arguments

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests reconsideration.

I. Objections to Specification

The Examiner has objected to the abstract on the grounds that it contains more than 150 words, uses legal phraseology, and is not on a separate page.

The abstract has been amended to contain less than 150 words, eliminate the legal phraseology, and is set forth on a separate page. (See new page 33 attached hereto.)

II. Claim Objections**A. Numbering of Claims**

The Examiner has noted that the claims are incorrectly numbered. Applicant has renumbered the claims 1-40 to correspond to the 40 claims originally filed in the U.S. application, consistent with the Examiner's identification of the claims in the Election/Restriction Requirement sent on December 15, 2005.

In this amendment, claims 4, 6, 7, 13, 17, 19, 23, 25, 26, and 38-40 have been cancelled. Claims 28-37 were previously withdrawn. Claims 1-3, 5, 8-12, 14-16, 18, 20-22, 24, and 27 are pending for consideration.

B. Other Objections

The Examiner has suggested that, in claim 1, the phrase "which has" should be changed to read "comprising." Applicant has amended claim 1 accordingly.

The Examiner has suggested that, in claim 23, the spelling of "minimise" should be corrected. However, Applicant has cancelled claim 23.

III. Claim Rejections**A. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, Second Paragraph**

The Examiner has rejected certain claims under 35 U.S.C. section 112, second paragraph, on the grounds that these claims are indefinite.

Applicant has amended these claims to clarify any ambiguities or cancelled the claims.

B. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 11-21, and 23-27 under 35 U.S.C. section 102(b) as anticipated by Tash et al., WO 2001/54139.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include an elongate member that acts as a spacer to keep the conductor sets apart, where the elongate member has a core or wall and the conductor sets are integral parts of the core or wall. The presence of the conductor sets integrally within the core or wall ensures that the conductor sets remain spaced apart. Support for this amendment is set forth in detail in the specification at page 8, lines 1-2; page 9, lines 1-3; page 18, lines 7-18; page 20, lines 9-13; and figures 5A, 5D-5F, and 8.

This is in contrast to Tash, in which there is an elongate member 20 which acts as a spacer, but the conductor sets 52 and 53 are provided in pockets formed between the spacer and the outer sleeve 54. Thus, the conductor sets in Tash are not integral parts of the elongate member.

Accordingly, Tash does not anticipate claim 1 and all of the claims that depend from claim 1.

C. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. section 103(a) based on Boucino, et al. (U.S. 5,969,295). The Examiner has also rejected Claims 22 and 38-40 under section 103(a) based on Tash, et al.

Claims 1-10 as amended are not obvious based on Boucino. As stated above, claim 1 has been amended to require an elongate member in which the conductor sets are integral parts. Boucino does not disclose such an elongate member. In Boucino, as shown in figures 1, 2, and 3, the elongate spacer member 14 (see Fig. 1) runs along the length of the cable and the conductor sets 16, 18, 20, and 22 lie within the spaces or pockets formed between the spacer member and the outer sleeve or jacket 12. Thus, the conductor sets in Boucino are not integral parts of the elongate spacer member.

As to claim 22, as set forth above, Tash does not disclose the conductor sets as integral parts of the elongate spacer member. Accordingly, claim 22 is not obvious based on Tash.

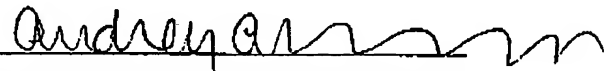
Claims 38-40 have been cancelled.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant has amended claim 1 to overcome the rejections. Accordingly, claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 8-12, 14-16, 18, 20-22, 24, and 27 are allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that these claims be allowed and that the Examiner pass this case to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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